

measures into appropriate management actions, (4) measuring the effectiveness of management towards achieving the goals and objectives by monitoring and assessing results of the actions, and (5) designing flexibility into the process to accommodate changes from unforeseen factors.

In order to translate the "why's" of management into specific actions, the initial "how" steps must be accomplished; that is, establish goals and objectives and develop procedures. This project was conducted to accomplish these two steps, with four specific objectives:

1. Develop management goals and objectives for North Carolina's coastal fishery resources;
2. Define the fishery data needed for stock assessments;
3. Identify and evaluate existing data; and
4. Recommend appropriate adjustments to existing data collection activities and additional data which need to be collected

Key terms used in this report, such as "management", "research", "development", etc. are defined in the Glossary of the report.

### MANAGEMENT GOALS

The general mission of the DMF is to manage the coastal fisheries for the optimum benefit of the citizens of North Carolina. It must be remembered that research, monitoring, assessment, development and enhancement activities can be conducted on the fisheries resources and habitat, but regulation and enforcement can apply only to the people using the resources. The DMF must consider the resource, the habitat, and the various users when making management decisions.

North Carolina General Statutes specifically authorize the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development to "collect such statistics, ... and research data as is necessary or useful to the promotion of sports and commercial fisheries in North Carolina and the conservation of marine and estuarine resources generally; conduct or contract for research programs..." (General Statute 113-181). The DMF is the arm of the Department which carries out this duty. Collection of fisheries statistics is specifically provided by General Statute 113-163. A shellfish management program is authorized by General Statute 113-204. Cooperative agreements with public and private entities "in the overall best interests of the conservation of marine and estuarine resources..." are authorized by General Statute 113-224. Membership in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which provides a medium of interstate coordination, is provided by General Statute 113-252. Participation in the required Fishery Management Council is authorized by Federal law, PL 94-265.

Based on the Division's legal authority and stated mission, six general management goals are given below: